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REMARKS

Claims 1-11 were pending in this application. The Office Action indicates that claims 3-7 have been allowed. By the present Amendment, claim 10 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 1 has been amended to include the features formerly recited in now-canceled claim 10, without introducing new matter and new issues. Entry of the Amendment is requested. Claims 1-9 and 11 remain pending upon entry of this Amendment, with claims 1 and 3 being in independent form.

Claims 1, 8, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Roberts (US 5,218,222). Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Usuki (JP 11-220094).

The Office Action also indicated that claim 10 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present Amendment, claim 10 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 1 has been amended to include the features formerly recited in now-canceled claim 10.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom are now allowable.

Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees in connection with this Amendment, and to credit any overpayment during prosecution of this application, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

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If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner
is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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